

THE TECH



2011 IN REVIEW

FEBRUARY 7, 2012

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THE TECH'S YEAR IN REVIEW 2011

What can MIT do better in 2012? Looking back on 2011, that's the question students, faculty, and administrators should ask themselves. Last year was a big one, for MIT and the rest of the world, and what happened will deeply inform how we move forward.

Student life saw some its biggest changes in years. MIT admitted a significantly larger freshman class, thanks to 460 new beds in the resurrected Maseeh Hall. Students also got their first taste of the new dining plan, mandatory for those who live in dormitories with dining halls. Eric Grimson PhD '80 took the reins of "all things students" with his appointment as Chancellor. And, two months ago, the Undergraduate Association overhauled its fundamental governance structure in an attempt to unify the undergraduate student voice.

At the same time, the administration has been expanding MIT's influence like never before. President Susan J. Hockfield has called for a radical redevelopment of the Kendall Square area — part of MIT's "2030" vision — but the central administration has clashed with local politicians and faculty over how much MIT should pay attention to commercial development versus its own academic priorities. The president has also spearheaded new high-profile international partnerships with China and Russia, extending the Institute's reach far beyond Cambridge borders.

MIT also began preparing for a digital future in 2011 with the announcement of MITx in December.

MITx, an online educational platform, is being billed by the central administration as a key component of future education at MIT and a means to bring an MIT education to the rest of the world. The platform has the potential to dramatically change the academic landscape for on-campus learners, and its implementation must be addressed carefully.

Tragically, MIT lost two of its own to suicide this past fall: Nicolas E. Del Castillo '14 in September and Satto Tonegawa '15 in October. The deaths sparked a renewed interest in mental health practices at MIT, and their impact will likely be felt for some time to come. Current students and alumni also gathered last month to remember Phyo N. Kyaw '10, who was killed on his bicycle at the Vas-sar St./Mass. Ave. intersection in December.

Our experiences in 2011 should not be forgotten as we faces 2012's challenges. Use this special *Tech* Year-in-Review edition to reflect on those experiences.

This year, students and administrators alike must learn to rise above the types of arguments that have typically characterized their relationship. Whether it be the re-evaluation of MIT's mental health practice, or a frank discussion of MIT's academic vision for the next 20 years, MIT cannot afford to descend into anything but the most intelligent, mature debate we can muster. This place, and its people, are just too important to spend time on anything less.

—Ethan A. Solomon, *Volume 131 Editor in Chief*

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NEWS IN REVIEW



Former Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 speaks at the MIT Next Century Convocation.

MANOHAR SRIKANTH—THE TECH

Celebrating 150 years of Technology

150 days of celebration unite current students, faculty, alumni

By Deborah Chen
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

MIT turned 150 last year, celebrating to the tune of “inventional wisdom,” a phrase coined by the MIT150 Steering Committee to convey a blend of entrepreneurship and quest for knowledge.

Over the course of a semester, MIT held 150 days of festivals, open houses and various exhibits, many of which were open to the public. Here’s a look at some of the highlights:

MIT150 Museum Exhibit

Last January, the MIT museum kicked off MIT150 with a special exhibit of 150 items symbolizing MIT’s culture

and history. Among the items were a reconstructed display of a piano for Baker House’s Annual Piano Drop and a “TECH is HELL” pennant over a Brass Rat to communicate IHTFP.

According to Deborah G. Douglas, exhibit curator, the exhibit was designed through the “collective intelligence” of the MIT community, allowing students, faculty, alumni and staff to submit nominations for items to include and eventually vote for the final 150 items.

Open House

MIT held its first open house in nearly 30 years last April, inviting the public to get a closer look at the Institute’s research and engineering and

laboratories. The event — titled “Under the Dome: Come Explore MIT” — drew over 20,000 members of the MIT and Boston community, featuring exhibits in nine major themes, including Air and Space Flight, Engineering, Technology and Invention and the Sciences.

The planning for the MIT150 open house began back in 2005, after President Susan J. Hockfield’s inauguration. From demonstrations of the Wright Brothers Wind Tunnel (Building 17), to a UH 60 Black Hawk fly-in to Briggs Field, to the Baker House piano drop, MIT hosted 312 events in five hours.

“Everybody is excited about the opportunity to do this again,” said Paul A. Lagacé, co-chair of the open house, to

Liquid Archive by Head of the Department of Architecture Nader Tehrani and Professor of Visual Arts Gediminas Urbonas extends Killian Court into the Charles River. During FAST Light last weekend, an hour-long program of environmental artwork was projected onto the inflatable screen.



The Tech in May. “Expect to see [open house] happening more often.”

Festival of Arts and Sciences (FAST)

Over the course of a semester, as part of FAST, the Institute commissioned and installed a series of projects that brought together elements of art and technology. Notable pieces included Dis(Course)4, an airy, aluminum, tunnel connecting the floors of the Building 3 stairwell off the Infinite Corridor, as well as volta-Dom, a Gothic passageway of curved vaults joining Building 56 and 66.

In May, the FAST Festival concluded with FAST Light, a nighttime showcase of all the projects created over the course of the festival. Thousands attended the event, which featured glowing orbs floating along the Charles Riv-

er, light displays on Harvard Bridge, and the raising of two giant inflatable stars over Killian Court.

Convocation

The 150th Anniversary Convocation of the signing of MIT’s charter took place on April 10, 2011 at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. David A. Mindell PhD ’96, chair of the MIT150 Steering Committee, called the convocation the “emotional center” of the celebration. The event culminated in the re-signing of the MIT charter — but this time, on an iPad.

Interspersed between speeches from President Hockfield, Professor Robert S. Langer ScD ’74 and Phillip L. Clay PhD ’75, were original compositions by MIT professors commissioned specifically

for the event and performed by MIT musical groups.

Toast to Tech

In June, the MIT150 celebrations culminated in the Toast to Tech, open to the entire MIT community and guests. Almost 7,000 people attended the event, which included ice sculptures, a live band, and a 12-minute fireworks show over the Charles River. A particular highlight was the 1000-pound, 24 by 4.5 feet cake depicting iconic campus buildings and landmarks, such as the Stata Center and the Green Building. The cake was accompanied by 1000 blue cupcakes to represent the Charles River.

Overall, MIT150 celebrated the Institute in grand fashion — here’s to the next 150 years!

Where will MIT be in 20 years?

MIT 2030 plan underscores academic and commercial tension

By **Ethan A. Solomon**

EDITOR IN CHIEF

MIT unveiled a long-term vision for the next 20 years of its development — “MIT 2030” — this spring. Though not a concrete plan in itself, MIT 2030 is essentially a collection of campus renovations, new construction, and real-estate development projects, some of which have already started.

MIT 2030 can be thought of as a “compilation of the best thinking” on how MIT’s physical campus can meet its academic vision over the next 20 years, then-Executive Vice President and Treasurer Theresa M. Stone SM ’76 told *The Tech* in June. The 2030 framework in its current form outlines several major off-campus developments, including the construction of new research complexes for pharmaceutical giants Pfizer and Novartis just north of central campus and a overhaul of the Kendall Square area near the eastern edge of campus.

MIT also hopes for two new research facilities of its own: one for nanoscale research, and another for energy and the environment. The Institute is currently in the process of selecting sites for those new buildings. Existing academic structures, including Building 2 and Walker Memorial, are anticipating renovation within the next 10 years. From 2020–2030, most of the Main Group buildings could see renovation, in addition to several dormitories and residential buildings.

But the 2030 vision is not uncontroversial. The November/December 2011 Faculty Newsletter asserted — in the form of a coordinated set of columns and editorials — that

the administration and the MIT Investment Management Company (MITIMCo) were pursuing a 2030 vision without adequate consideration of academic requirements.

“The plans in MIT 2030 involving the revitalization of the existing campus have had limited direct faculty involvement,” said the newsletter’s editorial. “This is regrettable, as it deprives the planning process of potentially significant inputs from a supportive and important constituency.”

‘The plans in MIT 2030 involving the revitalization of the existing campus have limited direct faculty involvement.’

MITIMCo, which manages MIT’s extensive real estate holdings in Cambridge, was a particular focus for criticism. O. Robert Simha, director of MIT’s now-shuttered planning office, wrote in the FNL that 2030 gives MITIMCo the ability to lease properties which were initially earmarked for academic use. Recovering properties after long-term leases (at least decades) — like ones being hashed out with pharmaceutical giants in the area — could be expensive for MIT.

“There is no reference in the 2030 plan to the long-range implications of the creation of high-value real estate in areas earmarked for ultimate academic use,” wrote Simha. “Implications that would include the cost to the academic budget to buy from the MIT Investment Management Company build-

ings needed for academic use at market prices, and the parallel implications of the loss of tax revenue to the City of Cambridge.”

MITIMCo has often justified its real estate ventures by arguing that commercial development attracts scientific talent, preserves Cambridge’s global competitiveness, and ultimately benefits MIT. This year, both MITIMCo and President Susan J. Hockfield have repeatedly called for the creation of an “innovation cluster” in the Kendall Square area.

But — when it comes to academic development and campus renewal — where does the money for MIT 2030 come from?

The first decade of new construction and renovation is expected to cost \$1.5 billion (\$500 million for new construction, and \$1 billion for campus renovation and capital renewal). To finance half of that, MIT sold \$750 million in 100-year taxable bonds last year, which yield 5.6 percent interest.

People or organizations who purchased these bonds have effectively loaned MIT money. In return, the Institute promises to pay back the loan, with interest, within 100 years. Stone said the investors tend to be “very high-quality” institutions, including large insurance companies and money managers in the United States and Europe.

MIT 2030 ties in to the ongoing efforts of the City of Cambridge to enhance Kendall and Central Squares. MITIMCo owns a substantial amount of real estate in the area, and its plans for those properties have faced scrutiny from the city. MITIMCo’s emphasis on new office and lab space is often countered by the City’s interest in more residential property than MIT tends to initially offer in new developments.



NOVARTIS INSTITUTES FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Design for Novartis’ 22 Windsor Street, by architect Toshiko Mori. It is characterized by five mini-atriums connected by diagonal staircases on the transparent south facade.



SOURCE: WWW.SIXTENMIT.COM

Rendering of the street-level retail space at 610 Main St., which will be predominantly occupied by Pfizer.



COURTESY OF THE MIT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COMPANY

610 Main Street concept art. The laboratory/office building will replace a surface lot, and it’s due for completion by the end of 2013.



CHRISTOPHER A. MAYNOR—THE TECH

Senators of the Undergraduate Association enjoyed a “R.I.P. Senate” cake after the Senate’s last meeting ever on Dec. 12. The body will be replaced by a UA Council made up of representatives from dormitories and FSILGs — a result of the UA’s largest restructuring effort in years.

UA finishes largest overhaul in years

Back-and-forth over internal restructuring ends with new Council

By Ethan A. Solomon

EDITOR IN CHIEF

2011 was a landmark year for the Undergraduate Association. Two successive administrations put forth plans to substantially restructure the organization, culminating in the dissolution of the UA Senate in December. A UA Council will take its place, comprised of representatives from dormitories, the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the Panhellenic Association (Panhel), the Living Group Council (LGC), and an off-campus representative. Unlike the Senate, constituencies will decide for themselves how to pick their representatives.

Talk of a major organizational overhaul first began in March. Then-UA President Vrajesh Y. Modi ’11 proposed a radical change to undergraduate governance as a means to unify the politically disparate IFC, Panhel, DormCon, UA, and LGC. Modi suggested a UA Council consisting of dormitory, IFC, Panhel, and LGC presidents (and an elected off-campus representative).

“There are two major purposes behind [my] bill: the first is unifying the student voice, and the second is a more efficient student government,” said Modi in April.

Under Modi’s plan, constituency leaders would be ex officio members of the UA council, letting student govern-

ment present a unified front on policy issues. Council members would have votes proportional to the population of their constituencies — the representative for the IFC, therefore, would cast the most valuable vote in the Council, and the representative for off-campus students the least.

“This bill addresses the issue of unity by bringing all of the major ‘stakeholders’ in the room together; the Council will cover all MIT [undergraduates] in that sense. On the efficiency side, the outlined structure is more streamlined and ties more directly into the dorms, the IFC, Panhel, and so on,” said the president about his bill, “The Bill to Unify the Undergraduate Student Voice at MIT.”

Modi’s plan also called for the dissolution of DormCon, since the participation of dormitory presidents on the Council would make DormCon’s functions redundant. But that also meant that DormCon and the UA Senate would need to approve Modi’s proposed constitution before it could take effect.

That turned out to be a problem. Some UA members, including then-Senate Speaker Jonte M. Craighead ’13 and Vice President-elect Alec C. Lai ’13, said the process felt rushed, and that students had insufficient time to consider the proposal. DormCon failed to approve the new constitution in a vote on April 3, falling 7 points shy of the 75

percent of dormitory votes required to pass.

By mid-April, a succession of UA committees had agreed to modify Modi’s original plan in hopes of easing the transition from the Senate to the Council, and to address concerns over Greek representation. Current dormitory presidents would be allowed to appoint proxies to serve on the Council in their place. The IFC would be represented by four people, including the IFC president, and Panhel by two people, including its president. Panhel and the IFC would be able to decide for themselves how to elect their additional representatives.

Additionally, several new committees would be created within the UA — like the Dormitory Affairs and the Dormitory Funding committees — to handle dormitory-specific issues in the absence of DormCon. The UA would also pick an assistant vice president for REX, which traditionally also has been dealt with by DormCon.

DormCon’s second vote on the measure failed by an even wider margin than the first — dormitories voted 57 percent in favor of adopting the new constitution. According to Rachel E. Meyer ’10, chair of the UA Committee on Restructuring, dormitory presidents did not provide specific feedback against the proposed government, and DormCon did not offer suggestions for how to

The UA Senate met for the last time ever on Dec. 12. It will be replaced by a 21-member council in the spring.

move forward with restructuring.

“While the proposed new structure for the UA did not pass DormCon or the UA Senate today, I want to make sure these discussions on UA restructuring don’t die,” wrote Janet Li ’12, vice-chair of the Senate, in an email to the UA Senate in April. “There are still a lot of problems with how the UA is structured. I think almost everyone agrees on this, and on the fact that it is beneficial to re-evaluate it and try to come up with the best possible structure.”

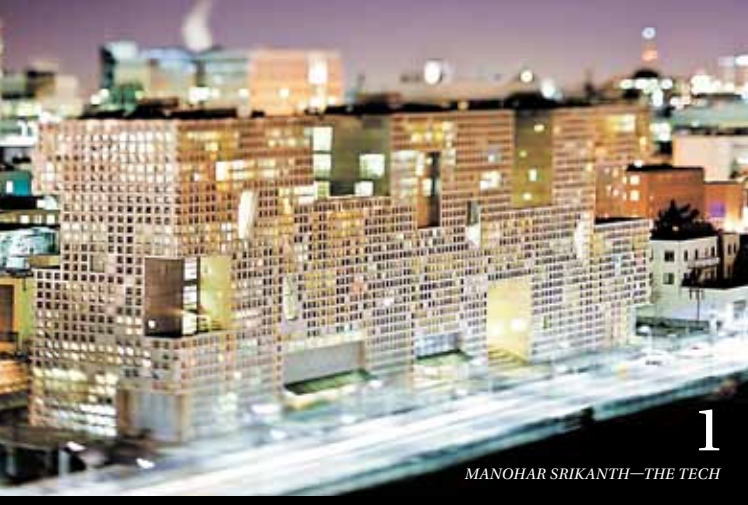
Indeed, restructuring efforts did not die. Similar plans were revived in the fall by then-UA President Allan E. Miramonti ’13 — Miramonti also called for a UA Council with dormitory and FSILG representatives but did not require the dissolution of DormCon. A new Restructuring Committee suggested that restructuring should fix “behavioral” issues within the UA — “operational improvements and [changes to] the manner in which members within carry out their responsibilities individually and collectively,” according to the committee’s report. The recommendation came in a year where the UA saw the resignation of Vice President-elect Lai and the resignation of several senators and committee chairs.

By mid-November, Miramonti’s administration had formulated a new constitution. A 21-member council would be chaired by the UA president, who would only be able to vote in tie-breakers. Policy positions would be approved by consensus, and population votes would be used to determine funding allocations and constitutional amendments.

On Nov. 28, the Senate voted to dissolve itself and approve the new constitution. Importantly, the new dormitories and FSILGs that send representatives to the Council would be able to decide for themselves how to pick those representatives. DormCon would also not relinquish any of its authority to the new UA. Miramonti said in November that the UA would use IAP as a transition period to build the new government.

On Feb. 1, in the final week of IAP 2012, Miramonti announced his resignation, and his vice president TyShaun Wynter ’13 assumed the presidency immediately. Miramonti said he needed to “refocus” on academics and well-being.





1

MANOHAR SRIKANTH—THE TECH



2

BIYEUN M. BUCZYK—THE TECH

Institute Double Take

A unique look at campus



3

MANOHAR SRIKANTH—THE TECH



4

DAVID HE—THE TECH

1. A miniature version of Simmons made to resemble Legos was taken using a tilt-shift lens.
2. A thick fog engulfs the Harvard Bridge on April 26, obscuring Boston from view.
3. The sun rises between the Hancock Tower and the Prudential Center.
4. Scales on the metallic walls outside the Stata Center create oceanic reflections on the orange brick ground.
5. In this photo taken at the docks of the sailing pavilion, the Prudential and the John Hancock Towers in the background are competing with the masts in the foreground for vertical dominance while the spectators enjoying the beautiful view on the roof of the pavilion are silhouetted by the glimmering Charles River.

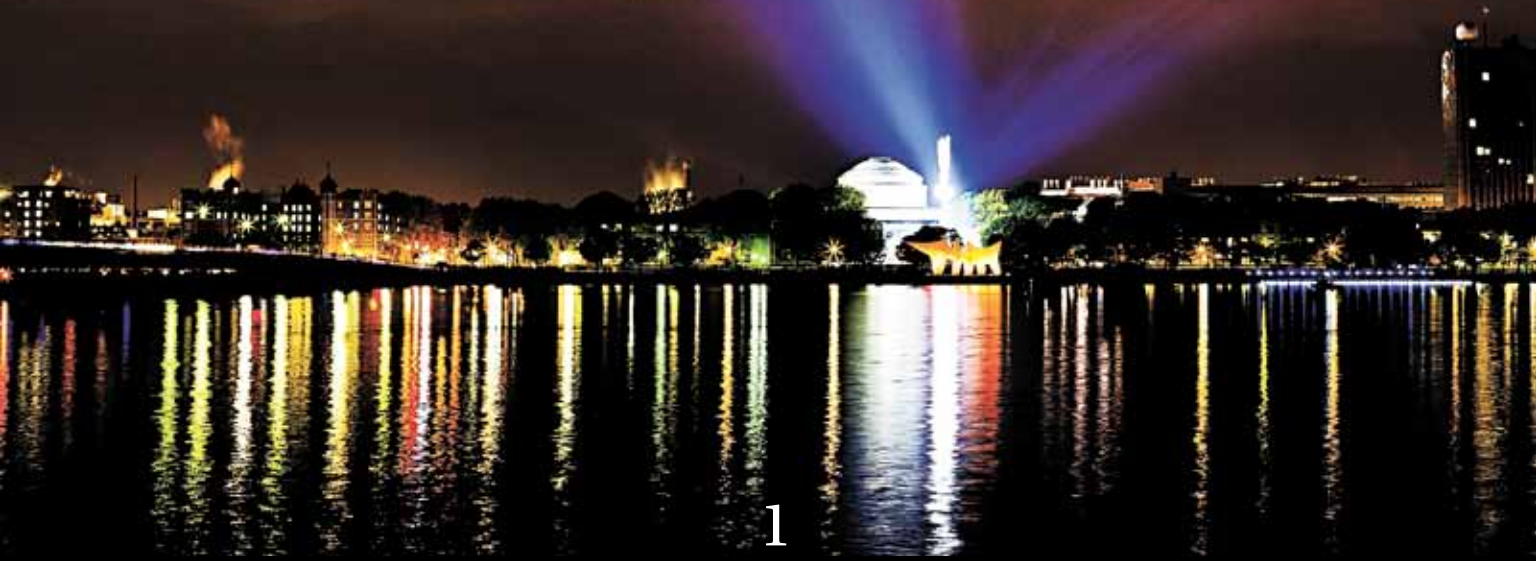


5

CHRISTOPHER A. MAYNOR—THE TECH

You made it to the big 150, MIT!

Spring 2011 was a big sesquicentennial party. Here's to 150 more.



1. MIT seen from Boston (left to right): LightBridge, SKY Event, Liquid Archive, and Light Drift were installed along the Charles River for the MIT150 FAST Light festival last spring.

2. MIT President Susan J. Hockfield uses a sword to cut the MIT-shaped cake at the Toast to Tech event.

3. At noon on April 30, an organized "flash mob" convened in Lobby 7, singing and dancing to a selection of pop and dance music.

4. Children learn the inner workings of a joystick-controlled robotic manipulator at a technology demonstration in the Stata Center during MIT's Under The Dome Open House celebration. Approximately 20,000 attendees visited campus for the first open house in over 30 years.

PHOTOS BY MANOHAR SRIKANTH—THE TECH



Three student deaths hit community

MIT mourned passing of Castillo, Tonegawa, and Kyaw in 2011

By Derek Chang

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

This year, the deaths of Nicholas E. Del Castillo '14, Satto Tonegawa '15, and Phyto N. Kyaw '10 shocked and saddened the MIT community. The deaths of both Castillo and Tonegawa were determined to be suicides, and Kyaw was killed in a traffic accident near campus.

Castillo was found dead on Sunday, Sept. 4 in his 4th West East Campus dormitory room, before classes had started for the fall semester. Castillo, from Bogota, Colombia, was a Course 18 (Mathematics) major.

His parents, Henry Del Castillo and Sandra Muñoz, say that in his relatively short life, their son left footprints in the lives of many people both at home and abroad. "He was a good son, a good brother, a good student, a good teacher," Muñoz said to the MIT News Office. "Everyone who knew him had a great deal of respect for him."

**'Our community depends
... above all on the
people within it and the
connections between us.'**

—Eric Grimson PhD '80

CHANCELLOR

Castillo always had a strong interest in mathematics — as an elementary school student, he began participating in math competitions. Later, he competed on Colombia's national math Olympiad team.

Tonegawa was found dead on Tuesday, Oct. 25 in his MacGregor J-entry dormitory room. His father, Susumu Tonegawa, was recipient of the 1987 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and is the current Picower Professor of Biology and Neuroscience at MIT.

Tonegawa, an avid musician who played the piano and violin, has performed as a pianist at Carnegie Hall. He attended Milton Academy in Milton, Massachusetts, and graduated cum laude before starting his studies at MIT this past fall. Tonegawa had a strong interest in biology and had worked in the Orr-Weaver Lab at the Whitehead Institute as a high school student.



SOURCE: FACEBOOK

Nicolás E. Del Castillo '14



SOURCE: FACEBOOK

Satto Tonegawa '15.



SOURCE: FACEBOOK

Phyto N. Kyaw '10

His parents said to MIT News that they will remember their son as a person of "profound intelligence, modesty and elegance, with a gentle and infectious smile and generous sense of humor," who, in his short life, "deeply touched those around him."

"Such losses stun us as a community," said Chancellor Eric Grimson PhD '80 in a campus-wide email in October in response to the suicides. "They are unexpected, they are hard to understand, and they remind us that our community depends not only on our academic endeavors, but above all on the people within it and the connections between us."

Grimson encouraged students to reflect on their connections in the community and on their personal well-being. He has since created a team of advisors, including students, to examine MIT's current support and mental health systems.

Castillo and Tonegawa's suicides are the most recent since that of Kabelo Zwane '12, MIT's first student from Swaziland. Zwane died in Nov. 2009.

Kyaw — who graduated from MIT in 2010 with a bachelor's in chemical-biological engineering, Course 10B — was killed on Tuesday, Dec. 27 after he was struck by an oil tanker truck while riding his bicycle at the intersection of Vassar St. and Massachusetts Ave. At around 7:40 p.m., the truck was turning from Mass. Ave. onto Vassar St. heading towards Main St. when it hit Kyaw. He was transported to Massachusetts General Hospital where he was pronounced

dead.

Kyaw was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity and involved in Camp Kesem, a summer program for children with a parent who has died of cancer. After graduating, he worked as a research scientist at Cambridge-based Soane Labs.

"Phyto was full of life and a friend to all," said the description on a "Friends of Phyto" Facebook page set up by his friends after his death. "May we share our happy memories of him to keep his spirit alive."

Kyaw's death has raised questions over the safety of the Vassar/Mass. Ave. intersection. Since 2007, Cambridge police have responded to 55 accidents at the intersection, 24 of them involving cars and bikes, the *Boston Globe* reported last month. In 2011, the intersection ranked No. 2 in Cambridge's top five dangerous intersections.

An investigation into the accident by State Police and the Middlesex District Attorney's office is ongoing. The truck driver has so far not been charged.

Students and members of the MIT community affected by the deaths are encouraged to reach out to MIT's personal support services at http://web.mit.edu/student/personal_support.html.

**'Phyto was full of life
and a friend to all. May
we share our happy
memories of him to keep
his spirit alive.'**

FRIENDS OF PHYTO KYAW '10

2011: Year of the international partners

MIT establishes academic partnerships with Russia, China, Malaysia, Singapore

By Anne Cai

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

In 2011, MIT broadened its international network, entering partnerships with Russia's Skolkovo Foundation, China, and Malaysia, as well as cultivating a relationship with the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) established two years prior. These initiatives follow other international partnerships in recent years, including the 2007 creation of the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology with Abu Dhabi and the 2007 establishment of the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology.

Russia

MIT and Russia's Skolkovo Foundation announced a partnership in June, intended to jointly form a new graduate research university in Skolkovo, which has been referred to as the emerging Silicon Valley of Russia. The MIT-Skolkovo agreement made a three-year plan and created the Skolkovo Institute of Technology, or SkTech (ess-kay-tek), and was signed by President Susan J. Hockfield, Skolkovo Foundation President Viktor Vekselberg, and SkTech's founding president Edward F. Crawley '76, a Course 16 professor, on Oct. 26, 2011. MIT faculty will be integrated into the development of SkTech, assisting with defining the university's educational and research goals with a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship.

SkTech is scheduled to open its doors in 2014 to a projected 200 faculty members, 1200 inaugural graduate students, and 300 graduate students.

Partnership with the Skolkovo Foundation expands MIT's academic relationship with Russia. The MIT Sloan School of Management has already been working with the Moscow School of Management in Skolkovo since the 2009 opening of Russia's first full-time MBA program.

Singapore

Hockfield and an MIT delegation traveled to several countries in Asia in November 2011, making a stop in Singapore to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the permanent campus of SUTD in Changi. SUTD was established in collaboration with MIT and China's Zhejiang University in 2009 and formally announced in January 2010. It has since been housed at an interim campus in Dover, Singapore. Additionally, Thomas L. Magnanti, a MIT Sloan Institute Professor, was named the new president of SUTD this past year.

SUTD will matriculate its first class of students in April 2012. The 3.5-year education will feature familiar aspects of the MIT undergraduate program, such as Independent Activity Period (IAP), Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), and Undergraduate Practice Opportunities Program (UPOP).

Malaysia

March 2011 saw MIT's Center for Transportation and Logistics (MIT CTL) partner with Malaysia to create a center for supply chain education and research in Shah Alam, Malaysia. The Malaysia Institute for Supply Chain Innovation (MISI) joins MIT's network of similar centers across the world, the Global SCALE (Supply Chain and Logistics Excellence) Network. MISI opened in the spring of 2011, and its first class of Masters students will be matriculating in fall of 2012.

China

On April 13, 2011, Madame Liu Yandong, the State Councilor of China, signed two documents with Hockfield and other MIT faculty and administration furthering MIT's partnership with China. One of those documents was a letter of intent, encouraging collaboration between MIT and China's Shanghai Jiao Tong University. The other document was a memorandum of understanding that a fellowship program would be established, with the China Scholarship Council sponsoring students from China to study at MIT.

These 2011 agreements followed the framework set up by the guidelines released in October 2010 by the MIT-Greater China Strategy Working Group, which was founded in 2007 by Associate Provost Philip S. Khoury to make recommendations regarding MIT's relationship with mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.



JESSICA L. WASS—THE TECH

Madame Yandong Liu and President Susan J. Hockfield toast after signing an MIT-China educational partnership agreement at the McGovern Institute.

Professor W. Eric L. Grimson
PhD '80, Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, assumed his role as MIT's new chancellor on Mar. 1.

2011's new Institute leaders

*Grimson takes the helm of
'all things students'*

By Bruno B. F. Faviero

STAFF REPORTER

The past year saw change and advancement for many holding leadership positions at MIT. A series of promotions, appointments, and step-downs shuffled faculty and staff, resulting in a new chancellor, dean of engineering, director of the Media Lab, and several academic department heads.

The biggest changes in leadership began with the appointment of Eric Grimson PhD '80 as the new chancellor. Grimson, former head of the department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, replaced Phillip L. Clay PhD '75, who stepped down after 10 years in the position and became a senior advisor to President Susan J. Hockfield.

Grimson has been at MIT for 35 years — teaching Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs (6.001) for 25 of them — and overall taught about 10,000 undergraduates and advised nearly 50 PhDs. Grimson describes his job as chancellor simply: “all things students.”

Ian A. Waitz was named the dean of the School of Engineering, succeeding Subra Suresh ScD '81, who left MIT to direct the National Science Foundation (NSF) in September 2010. A committee composed of professors from every engineering department selected Waitz, who previously served as head of the department of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Waitz won the Innovation in Education Award in 2002 and is an MIT

MacVicar Faculty Fellow.

Three departments appointed new heads. The Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics top spot, vacated by Waitz, appointed Jamie Peraire, a member of the MIT faculty since 1993 who created a new integrated curriculum on computation engineering.

Grimson has been at MIT for 35 years, and overall taught about 10,000 undergraduates and advised nearly 50 PhDs.

Grimson's appointment as chancellor left a vacancy at the helm of the EECS department — the Institute's largest department — which enrolls 30 percent of undergraduates. This position was filled by Anantha Chandrakasan, a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley. Chandrakasan still heads his research group and acts as an advisor, but says he also wants to get to know his students better. He can often be found at the Z-center gym in the mornings or on Facebook, according to a Campus Life interview with *The Tech*. His advice for students? “Really be passionate about something,” he said.

In December, Robert van der Hilst replaced Maria Zuber as the head of the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences (Zubar stepped down to lead a

lunar project). According to the News Office, Van der Hilst says that the best part of the job will be to “work with fantastic faculty, research staff, and students.” Van der Hilst assumed his position on Jan. 1.

Rounding out the academic departments, Chris Schuh, also a MacVicar Faculty Fellow, became the new head of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

In April, Joichi Ito was named director of the Media Lab, which had just undergone a major expansion. Ito, who never completed a college degree, sits on the board of the Mozilla Foundation and is an active internet freedom advocate and technology entrepreneur; he was an early investor in web startups, including Twitter and Flickr.

Ito told the MIT News Office that the Media Lab innovates by “abandoning traditional disciplinary divisions,” and that they “[come] up with the type of hybrid innovations that address the complexity and speed of global challenges.”

Israel Ruiz SM '01 was appointed as MIT's executive vice president and treasurer (EVPT) by the MIT Corporation, succeeding Theresa M. Stone, in October. As EVPT, Ruiz is in charge of many of the Institute's administrative functions and resources, from Facilities to IS&T, and also acts as MIT's chief financial officer. His main goals are “advancing administrative excellence” and “advancing knowledge and educating students in ... areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world,” he told *The Tech* last year.

Walker assessment is still not complete

Discussions of repurposing Walker must consider student groups currently there

By Stan Gill

ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Although the building has been under assessment since Oct. 2010, the 95-year-old Walker Memorial will see no changes for the rest of the academic year. Plans to repurpose the space for the Music and Theater Arts (MTA) department remain unsettled, with no set deadline for completion.

Opened in 1917, Walker is one of the original buildings on MIT's Cambridge campus. Today, it is home to several student groups, a third floor gymnasium often used as a large exam space, and Morss Hall, one of the largest event spaces on campus.

'Walker could not only enhance Music and Theater, but the building itself could also greatly benefit from revitalization.'

—Martin A. Schmidt

ASSOCIATE PROVOST

The assessment of Walker began when Associate Provost Martin A. Schmidt PhD '88 and Director of Campus Activities Complex (CAC) Phillip J. Walsh announced in 2010 that research was underway to consider Walker as a venue for the MTA department. In addition to providing MTA with a hub and performance space, a repurposing project would address much of the deferred maintenance on the aging building.

"Walker could not only enhance Music and Theater, but the building itself could also greatly benefit from revitalization," Schmidt said to *The Tech* in October 2010.

A major question centers around where to relocate the groups and activities currently in Walker Memorial. While some of these groups simply require a large venue from time to time, others, such as WMBR, the campus radio station located in the basement of Walker, have customized their space to their needs. The Graduate Student Council (GSC), led last spring by President Ulric J. Ferner G, held meetings to gauge student group opinion, and advocated to administration officials tasked with making the decision.

The administration also held an open meeting in February 2011, soliciting concerns from the community and giving an up-

date on the status of the assessment. These efforts eventually grew into the Walker Memorial Assessment Team (WMAT). WMAT is tasked with capturing the essence of how Walker is used and generating a report to upper-level administrators. These administrators will then decide how and whether to implement the repurposing project. WMAT consists of Provost Schmidt, a student representative from the GSC, Association of Student Activities (ASA) and the Undergraduate Association (UA) as well as several other administrators and support staff.

"I believe that if people are using this building, they're using it for a good reason and to advance the mission of the Institute," Schmidt said at the meeting in February. "It is the Institute's responsibility to find space for the different student groups and facilitate their move, should they have to move."

Ferner, who was originally concerned about the administration's efforts to engage the student groups when the issue was first presented, felt that the formation of WMAT greatly improved the quality of communication between the affected student groups and the administration.

"I would like to compliment Professor Schmidt on the excellent job he's done improving student engagement," Ferner said in May. "It's not easy to collectively survey student opinion like this. I'm amazed at the amount of work that's been done, the progress that's been made, and the transparency of the whole process."

WMAT had originally guessed a decision would be made by summer 2011, but the process has been taking longer than expected. The administration hired an architect last spring to create a design for the space that will cater to MTA's needs. The design has yet to be completed and is still undergoing revision by MTA and WMAT. As of December, WMAT completed the work of talking to each of the student groups that would be affected by Walker's repurposing and created with summaries for each group that capture how the groups use the space. As of publication, WMAT has yet to finish compiling a final report.

"We're doing a lot of sensitive work with regards to this matter and have come up with a lot of interesting sites [for potential relocation] that we think people might not have thought much of before," WMAT GSC Representative Brian L. Spatocco G said in December 2011.

Whether or not Walker Memorial will be repurposed for MTA has yet to be determined and may not be for some time. Groups are still allowed to book space in Walker for the 2012–2013 academic year and Schmidt said that there is now no set timeline for the decision. The future may be unknown, but for now, Walker and Morss Hall are here to stay.

"The design process is still ongoing," MTA Department Head Janet Sonenberg said in December 2011. "Nothing has been settled yet."



PHOTOS BY MELISSA RENÉE SCHUMACHER; PHOTOILLUSTRATION BY JESSICA LIU—THE TECH

Several of Walker Memorial's student groups, pictured in this December 2010 file photo. The Walker Memorial Assessment Team is evaluating the feasibility of using Walker as a space for Music and Theater Arts, but student groups have not yet had to find a new home.



MENG HENG TOUCH—THE TECH

The bibliodoptera exhibit was installed in the corridor between the Lewis and Hayden Libraries for the MIT FAST Arts Festival last spring. Designed by Elena N. Jessop G and Peter A. Torpey G, the butterflies in the display contained excerpts of sheet music, books, and MIT theses, and lit up when visitors arrived.

Students and faculty rack up awards in 2011

MIT, as always, was a sci & tech powerhouse

By Austin Hess

STAFF REPORTER

MIT students, faculty, and alumni received various awards this year from some of the world's most prestigious organizations.

In January, Institute Professor Emeritus Mildred S. Dresselhaus and Stanford Professor Emeritus Burton Richter '52, were named winners of the Enrico Fermi Award by President Barack Obama. The Enrico Fermi Award recognizes scientists for lifetime achievement in energy development, use, or production. Dresselhaus has worked at MIT and Lincoln Laboratory for over 50 years, primarily studying condensed matter physics. She has also served as head of the American Physical Society. Richter was selected based on his work on electron-positron colliders, his leadership as director of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, and his national and international contributions in energy policy, according to the official award citation.

Also in January, Edward Boyden '99, a McGovern Institute researcher, was named the first winner of the new A.F. Harvey Engineering Research Prize for medical engineering research. Boyden was recognized for his pioneering study in optogenetics.

Adam G. Riess '92 won the 2011 Nobel Prize in Physics in October for his work in suggesting the existence of dark energy. Based on observations of supernovae, Riess showed in 1998 that the universe's expansion was speeding up — which would require dark energy. He was awarded the Nobel Prize along with his team members Brian Schmidt and Saul Perlmutter, who presented similar findings in 1998. The three had previously received the 2006 Shaw Prize in Astronomy. Riess is currently a professor of physics and astronomy at Johns Hopkins University.

MIT biology professor Rudolf Jaenisch, founding member of the White-

head Institute, was one of seven people named by Obama to receive the 2011 National Medal of Science. His research deals with epigenetic gene regulation — the biological processes that affect how genetic information is translated into cell structures without changing the genes themselves. The National Medal of Science is the highest honor for science in the United States. Jaenisch, who teaches 7.31 (Current Topics in Mammalian Biology: Medical Implications) and 7.82 (Topics of Mammalian Development and Genetics), holds several notable achievements, including the creation of the first transgenic mouse.

Current students also got recognition this past calendar year. In November, Stephanie Lin '12, a Course 7 major, was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. Lin plans to become an epidemiologist and government adviser on healthcare. She is among 32 Americans to receive the award this year and the most recent of 44 MIT students to have done so in the past.

Fulbright Scholarships for study abroad were also awarded in June to current and former MIT students. The Fulbright Scholarship aims to advance international partnership and covers the travel and living expenses for a year of study in other countries. The recipients were Tobias Harris G, a PhD candidate studying the politics of reform in Japan; Course 8 (Physics) student Anna Waldman-Brown '11, who will use her award to study sustainable energy in Ghana; and Candace Wilson '05, who was Course 6-1 (Electrical Science and Engineering) and is using her scholarship to study energy use in the Dominican Republic.

Last March, graduate student Alice A. Chen won the Lemelson-MIT Student Prize for her biotechnology work, using tissue engineering to make a mouse with a human-like liver. The award, which comes with a \$30,000 prize, recognizes innovation by MIT seniors and graduate students.



JOSEPH MAURER—THE TECH

Stephanie Lin '12 won a Rhodes scholarship to study medical anthropology at Oxford University this year. She is majoring in biology.



SPORTS IN REVIEW

MIT ATHLETICS IN 2011

Women's Soccer

takes the NEWMAC Championship game, advancing to the first round of the NCAA Division III Tournament in November 2011.

Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving

send nineteen athletes to NCAA National Division III Championships. The men's team finished in fourth place nationally while the women's team placed fifteenth overall.

Men's Baseball

compete in NCAA National Division III Playoffs. This was their first time making it this far since 1974.

Men's and Women's Fencing

place third at New England Intercollegiate Fencing Championships in February 2011.

Men's Soccer

makes it to NEWMAC Semifinal Round before losing to Babson College in November 2011.

MIT Men's and Women's Cross Country

win NEWMAC Championships. This was the women's fifth consecutive title win and the men's 14th consecutive win.

Women's Field Hockey

rallies their way to a NEWMAC title, making it to the NCAA Quarterfinals.

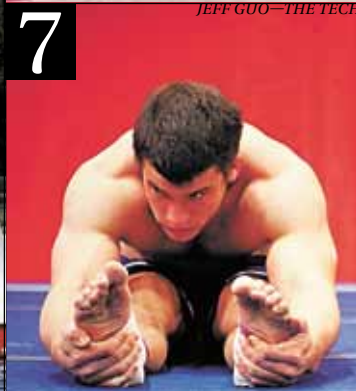
Men's Basketball makes it to the second round in the NCAA National Division III Playoffs before losing to Rochester for the 2010-2011 season. The team currently has a close to perfect record for the 2011-2012 season, with only one loss thus far.



CHRISTOPHER A. MAYNOR—THE TECH



JOANNA KAO—THE TECH



JEFF GUO—THE TECH



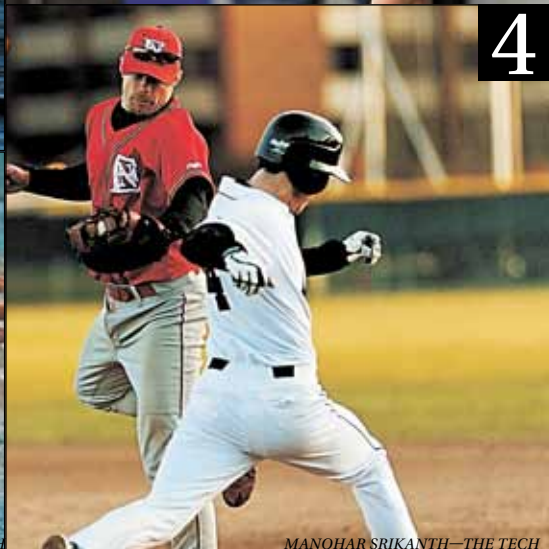
BIYEUN M. BUCZYK—THE TECH



JESSICA LIU—THE TECH



BRUNO B. F. FAVIERO—THE TECH



MANOHAR SRIKANTH—THE TECH

1. David A. Alfonso '13 and Iris Xu '14 race in the Hatch Brown Trophy regatta on Sep. 17. 2. Michael G. Zomnir '11 dives to retrieve the ball during a match on Feb. 25. Zomnir played a very close match in the final, losing by only two points. 3. Julia C. Hsu '14 serves during the final heated sets against the Skidmore Thoroughbreds on Apr. 17. The Engineers defeated the Thoroughbreds to earn their eighth consecutive victory. 4. Justin C. Helbert '14 runs to the base during a game against Easter Nazarene College on Mar. 15. MIT won 9-0. 5. Megan E. Tadge '12 swims in the 500 freestyle against Colby College on Jan. 14, 2012, helping MIT achieve a 237-57 victory. 6. The MIT Men's Freshman 8+ Crew races Northeastern University during the Alumni Cup on Apr. 2. MIT lost the Cup. 7. Jacob T. Shapiro '11 stretches during gymnastics club practice. Seven of the eight teams stripped of varsity status in 2009 were reinstated as club sports.

NBA lockout defined basketball in '11

Despite a troubling threat to US basketball, fans flocked to games

By Katie Bodner

SPORTS STAFF

Editor's Note: Due to editorial deadlines for this issue, score records here may not be the most current.

2011 was an odd year for NBA players, coaches, vendors and fans. The season did not begin until Dec. 25, nearly two months later than normal. Precipitated by conflicts over revenue sharing and salary caps, the NBA lockout took force on July 1, when preseason games were canceled and teams could not trade or sign players and the players could not use NBA facilities. This meant disappointed fans, a great decline in revenue for many urban areas, loss of salary for the players and the vendors and an overall tense feeling in the air. What could possibly be so terrible that threatened an entire NBA season?

Billy Hunter said that he was '99 percent sure there would be a lockout.'

It all started in 2005, when the NBA and the player's union proposed a six year collective bargaining agreement that would include a luxury tax every season and a shortening of the length of maximum player contracts to five or six years. However, in 2009, officials brought back the collective bargaining agreement two years before the old deal would even expire. Tensions mounted early in 2010 when owners of NBA teams came together and suggested a "hard" salary cap for players and a motion to cut the maximum contracts down even further, to just four years. The player's union fired back unfavorably and attempted to negotiate until the NBA revealed in Oct. 2010 that it wanted to drastically cut player salaries because of an expected \$350 million in losses for that season. Other proposals on the table included an idea to cut whole teams entirely. By as early as Nov. 2010, Billy Hunter, the executive direction for the National Basketball Player's Association, said that he was, "99 percent sure there would be a lockout."

In 2011, the conflict escalated. In May, the player's union filed a lawsuit against the Na-

tional Labor Relations Board to attempt to deter the lockout from happening. When no concrete deal was reached by Jun. 30, 2011 at midnight (when the old CBA deal expired), the lockout began. Many players went overseas to continue playing. Nets guard Deron Williams signed with Turkey's Besiktas, and Carmelo Anthony and Chris Paul came close to signing with China. Continued talks proved more and more unproductive, as the NBA's chief operating officer, Adam Silver, mentioned that the union must commit to a collective bargaining agreement or else the matter would not be resolved.

A marathon of contentious meetings ensued in October and November 2011 with the union filing antitrust lawsuits against the NBA until Dec. 8, 2011, when the lockout ended. The union and the NBA agreed upon a new ten-year collective bargaining agreement that would allow a 66 game season to begin on Dec. 25th. Also included in the deal were a 50-50 split of basketball related income, a higher luxury tax, the same soft salary cap system as before, a maximum player contract length of five years and a maximum annual salary increase of 7.5 percent for teams resigning players and 4.5 percent for free agents. This new agreement also contains a revenue-sharing system where teams "in trouble" could receive from \$40 to \$196 million by 2014, and player salaries were cut by 12 percent.

While the players are thrilled to be playing again and games as selling out quicker than ever, we cannot forget the adverse effects that the lockout had on local economies. On a grand scale, excess money that some citizens would have spent on NBA games was spent on other activities — like going to the movies or the mall — boosting revenues in other economies. But the vendors, workers, ticket collectors and valet parkers who served the stadiums lost their jobs. With our economy's high unemployment rate, it is difficult for these workers to find other "low-skill" type jobs. Luckily, the stadiums are back in business, and fans are flocking to games as though the lockout never happened.

Since the start of the season on Christmas Day, standout teams to watch have been the Philadelphia 76ers, the Chicago Bulls, the Atlanta Hawks, the Orlando Magic, the Miami

Heat, and the Denver Nuggets, each with over 70 percent wins. The best team in the league right now is the Chicago Bulls, with a 16-3 record, no home games lost so far and Derrick Rose, Luol Deng and Carlos Boozer contributing to a massive offensive force.

We cannot forget the adverse effects that the lockout had on local economies.

Some teams, however, started off weaker than last season. The Charlotte Bobcats and the Washington Wizards, both with less than 20 percent wins, have struggled immensely. In recent news, the Wizards fired their head coach, Flip Saunders, on Jan. 24 due to his disconnect with the players. Only time will tell if assistant coach Randy Wittman can save the team.

As the season continues, I think we'll see more heated contests between Chicago and Miami, which will continue to the Eastern Conference Finals. The Heat bring an impressive new rookie, Norris Cole, a healthier team overall and more standout players than just the Bulls' Rose and Deng. This is assuming no further injuries or coach changes. However, the season is still young, and the Bulls will definitely put up a strong fight. Similarly in the Western Conference, the Thunder and the Mavericks are as strong as last year, with the Thunder leading a massive offensive stride recently. The Thunder's Serge Ibaka, Forward-Center, has been a key contributor to the team's recent success, with his double-doubles and wide range of defensive abilities. However, the Clippers have the current edge over the Mavericks. A huge turn around from last year, the Clippers boast Chris Paul, fresh from the Hornets, Chauncey Billups and last year's best rookie, Blake Griffin. The contest will be fierce, and it seems as though the NBA picked up right from where it left off before the lockout with a possible repeat of last year's Heat-Bulls and Thunder-Mavericks conference match ups.

After this whirlwind year, I'm very glad that the lockout is over. I can cheer on my favorite teams again, and I'm excited to see what 2012 will bring for the NBA.

Football embodies American values

Scandals, safety, and integrity shed light on US sports in 2011

By Nicholas Myers

SPORTS STAFF

Football is America's sport. Not only because it is the most watched sport in America. Not because it is the top grossing sport in America. Football is America's sport because it represents the morals that we as Americans value. There is little doubt about it after this past year.

In a year when every major sport was making headlines, football reaffirmed its top role. 2011 was a year filled with dualities, allowing us to analyze each sport side by side. Two sports were entrenched in lockouts, two teams battled through crippling sex abuse cases, and two sports are dealing very differently with the health and safety of its players. Through it all we can look at how each major sport dealt with similar situations, and why we should gladly embrace football as America's sport.

The biggest headline of 2011 was the NFL and NBA lockouts. The fans saw both as a ridiculous debate between billionaires and millionaires, and in the time of economic crises these lockouts fell on deaf ears. The main problem was revenue sharing — how much of the absurd pool of money each sport brings in would go to either the player or the owners? The NFL lockout received more publicity, probably owing to the novelty of the first major work stoppage of a major sport since the NHL lockout. But it also showed the dedication of NFL fans.

When all seemed lost in the lockout negotiations, the players and owners finally agreed on a deal to prevent any lost games — but the lockout created 17 weeks of sloppy football. Even with sloppy play, however, fans had the same fervor. Our short attention span speaks to our enthusiasm for football.

In contrast to the effects of the NFL lockout, the NBA's lockout did have an impact on the fans. The NFL preserved most fans and the lack of coordinated team play created close, interesting games that might have even *increased* the fan base. Analysts and fans took the NBA lockout less kindly — after a while we just stopped paying attention. There was no side that was inherently right, and as such, we came to despise both. Fans claimed they would stop watching NBA altogether — and even though they quickly forgot the pain of an extended

lockout — damage had been done.

The biggest indication that fans cared more about football than basketball came with the near catastrophic response of fans on the eve of a work stoppage. The NBA missed games with very little frustration, instead a quiet resentment and eventual acceptance. If the NFL lost games there would have been a significant outcry.

Abuse scandals

Another aspect of football and basketball came to light at the end of 2011, this time at the college level. Both Pennsylvania State football and Syracuse basketball were mired in sex abuse scandals. Jerry Sandusky was accused of sexually abusing kids when he was a coordinator at Penn State and even after he retired. In 2002, assistant coach Mike McQueary witnessed Sandusky sexually assaulting a child in the locker rooms in the college athletics facility. He reported it to Joe Paterno, the head coach, who in turn advanced this information to his superiors, but not the police.

The fallout of this case led to the firing of everyone who "covered up" this event, including the legendary Paterno. This was an important moment in collegiate sports. Even in the midst of a successful season, Penn State looked past Paterno. They looked past the legacy of a man and realized that 10 children were raped and that was more important than a single coach and more important than football.

Syracuse had a different response to its own sexual abuse case. Assistant coach Bernie Fine was accused of raping at least two children, confirmed by a voice recording by his wife. Instead of firing head coach Jim Boeheim, who released insensitive comments on the sexually abused, Syracuse kept him as head coach in the midst of their most successful season. This came even after reports stating that Boeheim witnessed a child on Fine's bed in a hotel room.

This was clear example where success outweighed the morality of the situation. Football was able to accept that there are things more important than a game, whereas basketball has been unable to understand that. Football understands that the fans need the game to be played, whereas basketball will pettily shorten a season to get a little more money.

Safety and integrity

Football also shared similarities with other sports. Both football and hockey players are struggling with frequent concussions. Football has gone to extraordinary lengths to decrease the helmet-to-helmet hits and for the first time ever, a player (James Harrison of the Pittsburgh Steelers) was suspended for such a hit. Hockey, on the other hand, has seen one of its biggest superstars, Sidney Crosby, with two concussions that led him to miss almost every game since January 2011. There have been numerous other players with significant time lost due to concussions, but NHL officials have refused to take steps to prevent such dangerous hits. Without the safety of its players the game will continue to see its biggest players end their careers with terrifying injuries. But football understands the need for player safety.

Integrity was also an issue in 2011. Ryan Braun of the Milwaukee Brewers won the MVP last season. Shortly after that, he tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs. Instead of the immediate retraction of the award, officials allowed him to keep the award. This showed a lack of dedication to the drug policy put in place by the MLB.

In 2005, Reggie Bush accepted illegal incentives to play for USC. When this came to light, he retroactively gave back his Heisman award, even though that was five years prior. Braun wouldn't even give up the award he won weeks prior.

2011 was an interesting year of similarities between America's most popular sports. These lessons extend into 2012 as well. The NFL and NBA have resolved their labor disputes but created numerous free agents and sloppy plays, making the 2011 season seem like a farce to appease fans. The real rebuilding of the two sports will happen in the off-season. NHL has started to consider enacting rules for player safety, and hopefully in a year's time they will be moving towards protecting their players. The media also spent substantial time on the Sandusky case without focusing on the great tragedy of Syracuse's failure to follow the same moral code. As a culture, we should demand more from the games that represent us. They should follow the values that we agree with. The failure of MLB and NBA has shown why football should be crowned America's sport.

OPINION IN REVIEW

Featuring some of the year's best columns



MANOLIS KELLIS

2012 an opportunity for renewed diplomacy

In a tumultuous world, the US should seek peaceful engagement

By Nina Sinatra

OPINION EDITOR

To say that 2011 was a momentous year in international affairs would be a grand understatement. The past twelve months have been a potent testament to tenacity, to willpower, to rebirth, and to change.

Early 2011 was defined by the stirrings, and later successes, of the Arab Spring. In Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Syria, Yemen, Bahrain, and many other nations, a resounding and robust call for change was heard. In Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia, longtime dictators were denounced for their corruption and crimes, and forcefully driven from power. The world looked on in astonishment and trepidation as power was wrested from Hosni Mubarak, Muammar Gaddafi, and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. These events represent not only a dramatic and revolutionary force, but also a profound and captivating strength of human spirit. The outpouring of revolutionary rhetoric from the affected countries — most notably in Egypt — on Facebook and Twitter represented a novel opportunity to observe the unfolding of the emotions, conflicts, and triumphs of the events in real time.

In Syria, the battle for justice, civil rights, and autonomy continues amid bloodshed and treason. Despite attacks on revolutionaries and civilians by Syrian army tanks, countless arrests and protests, and calls for the resignation of President Bashar al-Assad, the nation remains in a state of emergency and uprising. The Arab League strongly condemned Assad's behavior, removing Syria from the body pending further action. Whether Syrians will follow in the bold footsteps of Egyptians, Libyans, and Tunisians is yet unknown.

Thousands of miles east, an equally frightening disaster unfolded in Japan, beginning on 11 March, 2011 with the onset of a deadly 9.0 magnitude earthquake. The resulting 23-foot tsunami caused widespread property loss

and hundreds of billions of dollars in damage, leaving 15,839 Japanese citizens dead and 3,647 missing. A nuclear crisis arose from a failure in the cooling systems in the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station on the eastern coastline. Evaluation by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) assessed the reactor's failure and leakage on par with the toxicological effects of the 1986 Chernobyl reactor explosion.

In addition to homelessness and economic strife, Japan has struggled to combat the widespread marine, air, and agricultural consequences of the external release of a substantive amount of the reactor's core material. Marshaling a force of 100,000 aid troops — the largest deployed since the second World War — to bolster the relief effort, Japan has striven to alleviate suffering precipitated by the tsunami. Full recovery is not predicted soon, but the rebuilding process is expected to continue with determination. The tragedy has also spurred widespread anti-nuclear protests, most notably in Germany, where Chancellor Angela Merkel announced in March the timely closure of German nuclear power plants as a result of the Fukushima crisis. Merkel maintained that the bold move was motivated purely by safety concerns, and assured citizens that nuclear power will not be imported from neighboring countries.

The United States stands at a defining moment in foreign policy. The nation that inspired a nearly unparalleled surge of patriotism by successfully eliminating the threat of Osama bin Laden should seek to balance this power with moderation and a renewed approach to the Middle East. With the removal of U.S. troops from Iraq, the reconstruction of several Middle Eastern nations, and an increasingly modern face of the Arab world, America must choose its course wisely. By protesting the addition of Palestine to the UNESCO — a body dedicated to peaceful collaboration through education and the arts — the United States has brusquely dis-

carded an avenue to discourse and deliberation with Israeli and Palestinian neighbors. Violence in Iran and the beginning of UN-sponsored talks between the IAEA and Tehran illuminate a delicate balance of power and deep-seated frustration.

The United States should pursue cautious and consistent diplomacy in the Middle East, engaging both governments and civilians through peaceful and cultural ties rather than enacting aggressive measures. By following the model of nations such as Turkey, whose successful diplomacy with Iran centered on a conscientious effort to interact with multiple governmental and civilian organizations, we can proceed to a state of nonviolent relations. Now, more than ever in the past ten years, dialogue must be maintained as a key element of American diplomacy.

Our contact with nations with whom our relations have been historically poor is significant not only as an extension of discourse and negotiation, but also as a matter of safety. In the event of a diplomatic or military crisis, such as Iran's alleged role in the assassination of the Saudi ambassador on U.S. soil, open ties with the country or government in question will expedite and ease resolution. Building and extending trust within the Middle East is a key step to developing America's role and reputation as a peaceful, non-imperialist entity. These lessons will be especially important to understand during the 2012 presidential election this November, bearing in mind that a cautious foreign policy does not belie weakness or infectivity.

In light of the decisive and pivotal events of 2011, we as a nation and as a global community have experienced a revitalizing new perspective on the power of persistence, justice, and human spirit. As we continue to carve and refine our place in a post-Arab Spring world, tolerance, perseverance, and dignity will continue to serve as valuable creeds.

A tumultuous year could be a new beginning

The battles of 2011 inform how we move forward

By Ryan Normandin

OPINION EDITOR

2011 was a big one for MIT students, particularly in the realm of student government. Depending on who you ask, there was some combination of victories and defeats resulting in the implementation of the long-fought dining plan, the dissolution of the Undergraduate Association (UA) Senate by itself and simultaneous creation of the UA Council, and the appointment of a new Chancellor, Eric Grimson PhD '80, which gave hope for renewed trust in student-faculty relations.

Dining has long been one of the most contentious issues on campus, with more committees and acronyms than one might care for having looked at the possibility of a dining plan. With the dining halls losing substantial amounts of money every year, something had to be done, and the administration decided to go ahead and finally put an end to the debate.

In a last grasping of straws, the UA had a referendum on the issue, with 56 percent of students expressing disapproval of the dining plan and 54 percent disapproving of the House Dining Advisory Group's (HDAG) decision-making process, which many felt did not adequately represent students. As Paula Trepman '13 (a former HDAG member) told *The Tech* 2010, "the administration is just going through the motions to appear as if they care about student opinion." Housing's Henry J. Humphreys, however, said, "the way I'm looking at it, I came onboard two years into the process, and I saw an unprecedented amount of student involvement," adding that he anticipated the negative response from the referendum before the results were released.

Even after the administration had decided to move forward, students were not ready to let go of the fight, with the UA President-elect at the time, Allan E. Miramonti '13, saying that "nothing was set in stone," even though vendors were in the process of being selected. In the end, the dining plan was implemented, although some changes, such as the ability to swipe multiple times for a single meal to allow for guests, are still in the works.

But dining was not the only turmoil facing the UA. President Vrajesh Y. Modi '11 was strongly pushing a restructuring of the student government in the weeks leading up to the end

of spring term. Prompted in part by the massive attrition rate for senators and general inefficiency of the UA Senate, many agreed that something had to be done. But what began as a well-intentioned reformation turned into a crusade by Modi to leave a legacy of a reformed government. The process became rushed and ineffective; committees were given two weeks to formulate and implement the fundamental documents of the new undergraduate government, despite students' regularly asking the administration for months to formulate new policy.

Damaged relations with the administration and the internal power struggles came to a head when, in late April, the incoming UA Vice President-elect Alec C. Lai '13 sent a three page letter of resignation to undergraduates. In his letter, he outlined his reasons, criticizing the leaders for being "megalomaniacs" and the members for lacking respect. He also pointed to the heavy bureaucracy and arrogance of the leadership as hindrances in getting things done. The UA crisis seemed to be coming to a head.

In fall 2011, what would be the final UA Senate was elected. As usual, the percentage of students voting was tiny (often less than 10 percent of a given dorm) and many senators ran unopposed (I served as one of two senators representing MacGregor House). It soon became clear that the Senate, President Miramonti, and the Speaker of the Senate, William F. Steadman '12, were determined to see a more efficient and representative body replace the current government. Unlike the previous attempt to restructure, the process this time took more time and allowed for more input, garnering support from key stakeholders. Although not perfect, the product ended up being far superior to its predecessor.

MIT student life has fundamentally changed in the course of a year. No one can know for sure how it will all play out, but there is certainly reason to be hopeful. The new UA represents a new beginning for undergraduate government to work, and the appointment of Grimson has demonstrated that the administration is also willing to move forward and usher in an era of renewed trust between students and faculty. The administration has also been responsive to some concerns regarding the dining plan, making it all-you-can-eat and working on permitting multiple swipes per

meal to allow for guests.

On this precipice of new beginnings, uncertainty, and hope, students would do well to remember a few things. First, students, especially the UA, should work to enhance its institutional memory. Otherwise, the administration can pass a policy and deal with the uproar because they know that four years later, it will be completely forgotten. This is a tool that students do not have unless they can improve the ability to maintain positions as new students enter the Institute.

Second, criticism is important, but it should always be constructive. Whether targeting policy created by the UA or the administration, or addressing either group's response to the other's policy, criticism is only useful so long as it is respectful and constructive. Remember that the individuals making policy are not perfect and should not be expected to get everything right on their first try.

That leads to the third point: input should be encouraged. MIT students have a bad habit of only getting involved and speaking out when something they don't like happens. Otherwise, they are largely apathetic when it comes to campus politics. In a nation, the power to vote comes with the responsibility of being informed. In a community like MIT, we also have a responsibility to be informed and try to make this environment the best it can be for everyone here. That is not going to happen if we do not pay attention or choose to sneer at others and tear down what they've done rather than work with them to improve things. MIT has arguably one of the highest densities of creative and intelligent people on the planet, yet the largest issue the students have fought over in the last ten years has been the dining plan? Aren't there other issues which should command our attention, both within MIT and in the larger state, nation, and world?

The past year has been tumultuous, but it has been productive. For 2012, let's hope that both students and the administration capitalize on the developments of 2011, work to develop better relations, and continue to work to improve student life at MIT. But most of all, let's hope that more MIT students start caring about more than just their problem sets and commitments, and begin to look towards having a larger, more positive impact on the community — both MIT and the world.

EDITORIAL

Focus on what's important

Be vocal about the big issues

Being an MIT student gives you a voice that few other people have. Like it or not, the MIT name makes you a representative of modern science and engineering. It's no small secret that the world turns to MIT for its understanding of science, technology and related policy — just pick up the science section of the *New York Times* for proof. We're not exaggerating, then, when we say that the pulse of MIT's campus has a substantial effect on the world beyond the Institute.

If the world turned its eye towards MIT recently, it might be a little confused. The recent "big issues" at the undergraduate level have almost purely been ones of student life policy. But dining, residence exploration, orientation, and living group culture, while all important, are not what define MIT undergraduates. MIT, and its students, are part of a much bigger and much more complex world. They should play a part in the debates that define that world.

The Institute is a nexus of important research and education with vast ethical and policy implications. Right now, MIT researchers across several fields are trying to create a new energy future for this country, but some say their efforts are misguided or misdirected. Biologists and computer sci-

entists are developing an increasingly clear picture of genetics, simultaneously opening doors for a future of human genetic engineering and modification. MIT nuclear engineers are continuing to push for a nuclear energy future, while the rest of the world is cutting back on that technology in the wake of Japan's recent disaster. MIT's Lincoln Laboratories develops weapons and tactical systems, funded by the Department of Defense. The Institute has forged educational and research partnerships with Russia, China, and the United Arab Emirates — all of which have ongoing political and human rights problems.

But there are important debates to be had even closer to home. As we've commented or reported on in these pages, MIT (and the rest of higher education) faces major social and political challenges. A March 2011 report on women faculty in the Schools of Science and Engineering noted marked improvements in the representation of women in science and engineering here at MIT, but also pointed out that misconceptions persist. In July, *The Tech's* editorial board remarked on the state of LGBT students at the Institute — and it was clear to us that more work needs to be done to make MIT a welcoming and supportive place for people of all sexual orientations, especially when it comes to faculty-student relationships. And the list doesn't stop there.

Our purpose here is not to pass a "right" or "wrong" judgment on any of MIT's social, educational, or research activities. Whether it's nuclear engineering, genetics research, educational partnerships, or weapons development, there's room for reasonable debate.

We're asking students to engage in those debates. Some of the questions we mentioned above will be the defining issues of

our time. Do MIT undergraduates want to be stuck squabbling about dorm food or orientation guides while the world changes at a breakneck pace around them?

To be sure, undergraduates are not solely concerned with student life issues like dining or orientation. Many of us have had late-night discussions with our friends about science, politics, ethics, and philosophy. But we've noticed in cases of public discussion a near-exclusive preponderance of student life issues. Whether through mailing lists, posterings, social websites, student government, letters to *The Tech*, or sit-ins, undergraduates seem to be most vocal about issues with fundamentally limited scope and relevance.

This hasn't always been the case. In the 1950s through 80s, students were regularly driven to riot or protest in response to human rights issues, wars, or political repression. Be it the establishment of Fidel Castro's brutal regime in Cuba or the presence of recruiters for military contractors on campus, students were energized and vocal about issues with great global and national relevance. Rioting, of course, is a bad way to make a point, and we don't support a return to that tradition.

We want MIT undergraduates to engage in more public discourse about the issues that really matter. There's a time and a place for dining and dormitory debates, but the real focus — the real energy — should be where MIT has the most influence. The best way to preserve true MIT culture is not by butting heads with the administrations about food, it's by having debates about the science and technology that will change the world.

Students, faculty, and administration will likely disagree on such issues. But those are the disagreements that are worth having.



\$1 billion for a dictator

Obama made a good deal in Libya, and he should seek others like it

By Keith Yost
STAFF COLUMNIST

War is never a clean affair. The recent action in Libya is no exception — in victory, the rebels have taken to killing pro-Gaddafi forces in retribution, including, it appears, Gaddafi himself, who was captured while fleeing his final holdout in Sirte. But the final outcome is as pure and as cheap a victory as the United States can hope to force on the modern battlefield. The Department of Defense estimates that from March to September, the Libyan intervention cost the DOD a mere \$1.1 billion, with no U.S. casualties.

Critics were right to chastise the president for his weak initial foray into Libya. The U.N. mandate he secured as part of a left-wing experiment in the “responsibility to protect” doctrine did not go far enough to support the ouster of Gaddafi and his forces. Had the president refused to go further in support of regime change, the Libyans would likely still be locked in a bloody civil war. But ultimately, Obama changed course, putting larger forces into the conflict while avoiding an overcorrection. The result is the most cost-efficient liberation that the U.S. could have hoped for.

With luck, the success in Libya will put to rest the notion that the U.S. can force a regime change without adhering to Thomas Friedman’s “pottery barn rule” of “you break it, you bought it.” The U.S. does not need to engage in decade-long nation-building exercises after having helped rid the world of Colonel Gaddafi — U.S. advi-

The US does not need to engage in decade-long nation-building exercises after helping rid the world of Gaddafi.



sors might remain on the ground through the end of the year, but the brunt of democratization can be born by the free men and women of Libya, not the American taxpayer.

The victory should also embolden Obama to act more forcefully in Libya-like states. The military advisors sent to Uganda to help African forces put an end to Joseph Kony and his Lord’s Resistance Army in October are a positive indication.

The victory should also embolden President Obama to act more forcefully in Libya-like states.

More significantly, President Obama will soon be faced with a decision of whether to intervene in Syria. For months, the Syrian opposition has refused to ask for protection against the government forces brutalizing them. Ausama Monajed and other leaders firmly believe that the Syrian government will fall before it becomes excessively violent. Their reticence toward western help has been reason enough to avoid intervention.

It is only a matter of time however before the Syrian opposition realizes its miscalculation. Bashar al-Assad is not going quietly as his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak did. The U.N. estimates that 3,000

Syrians have been killed since the start of the uprising. The Syrians will switch from protests to armed revolt and call for protection before they let their dreams of democracy founder on the clubs and guns of Syria’s military forces.

When that moment comes, Obama should be ready to take the same steps he took in Libya. Already, diplomatic efforts should be underway to bring NATO members on board with a future intervention. NATO planners should be laying out a strategy to neutralize Syrian air defenses and work out the details of other combat eventualities. And though the U.S. ambassador to Syria recently had to leave the country for security reasons, the U.S. State Department should continue its conferencing with the Syrian opposition, both to keep close tabs on the mood of the resistance, as well as to plan for a post-Assad Syria.

One billion dollars is a cheap price to pay for the liberation of six million people. At that price, the United States could buy the freedom of the whole of the autocratic world with less than what Bush spent in Iraq alone. The president should be congratulated on his purchase, and sent back to the market to buy more.



Abolish the Electoral College

The system is a vestige of an era long past

By **Michael Veldman**

STAFF COLUMNIST

A new poll from Gallup confirms once again the widespread support for amending the Constitution to provide for presidential election by popular vote. For those unacquainted with the issue, in the United States, the president is not elected by direct popular vote. Rather, the framers of the Constitution saw fit to create a college of electors, appointed and regulated by their respective state legislatures, to choose the president by majority vote. While the procedure for the selection of electors has been modified in the intervening 200 years — for example, electors are now nominated by state political parties and elected on Election Day — the gist is largely the same. Currently, 48 states and Washington D.C. allocate their electoral votes on a winner-take-all basis; only Maine and Nebraska delegate part of their votes on a district-by-district basis.

Gallup has been tracking the level of support for an amendment to establish direct presidential election since 1967, when they found that 58 percent would approve and only 22 percent would disapprove. Approval peaked in 1969 at 80 percent and has since leveled off to 62 percent according to their polling this year. In 1970, a popular resolution to amend the Constitution passed the House but died after a successful filibuster by small-state and Southern Senators.

The original logic behind the college is that the President is not elected to govern a people, but a federation of states, each with their own right to an equal place at the table. According to its modern proponents, it has

a number of other benefits. For instance, it prevents candidates who are regionally popular in densely-populated areas but unknown elsewhere from winning. Other touted advantages include its ability to negate factors like bad weather that affect voter turnout within a state. It also skirts the issue of candidates ignoring minority groups, since these groups often mean the difference between winning a majority of the statewide popular vote, and thus all of the electoral votes, and receiving no electoral votes at all. And in the end, the college has had a pretty decent record of ensuring that the winner of the popular vote has won the general election.

The Framers had flaws: stunning hypocrisy and a belief in their superiority as rich, white men.

However, many of these concerns are no longer valid, if they ever were. Ease of communication and travel make it an economical use of time to reach out to all corners of the country. Members of several minority groups can testify to the fact that they have been, and continue to be, categorically ignored or even used with an electoral college system. And I don't think I have to remind people how even though it has failed to move the popular winner into the White House "only" four times, indirect election can still have disastrous consequences when it does fail. Ultimately, none of these factors matter if we as a country wish to adhere to the principle of "one person, one vote."

Ironically, while small states are often

considered to have the greatest interest in preserving the status quo, under the Electoral College system, citizens of larger states may have the greatest voting power, or probability of casting the deciding vote.

Some say the index used to reach this conclusion, the Penrose-Banzhaf Power Index (BPI), may not be the most realistic way of modeling an election; the BPI assigns each voter a probability of one-half of voting for either candidate. Regardless, a 2002 study by Gelman, Katz and Tuerlinckx at the Institute for Mathematical Statistics reveals that, while the relation between state population and voting power is not nearly as simple as the BPI-model suggests, one thing is clear: dividing voters into "coalitions," e.g. states, causes voting power to vary drastically. The only way to ensure that each vote has the same power is a direct election. Conveniently, this system also maximizes the average voting power.

For many people, this is a no-brainer: we cannot simultaneously keep the Electoral College and claim to have democracy. Unfortunately, widespread belief in the near-infallibility of the Founding Fathers is at least partly responsible for preventing progress. What people who hold on to this notion must realize is that the Framers had flaws: stunning hypocrisy and a belief in their superiority as rich, white men, for example. While not infinitely so, many of them were indeed wise. Hence, foreseeing that social mores and technology would change, they granted their future countrymen the opportunity to amend the Constitution as needed. Let's take them up on that offer and move toward real democracy.



ARTS IN REVIEW



SOURCE: (LEFT TO RIGHT) YOUTUBE, KATYPERRYVEVO; DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.; FESTIVAL EUROCKÉENNES 2007; WARNER BROS. PICTURES; FOX BROADCASTING COMPANY

The year in arts, 2011

Business as usual for the entertainment industry

By **Kathryn Dere**
ARTS EDITOR

2011 was a year of general unrest and uncertainty — rioting and political upheaval throughout the world, a possible start to the collapse of the Eurozone, and on American soil, the Occupy Wall Street movement. On the arts front, the arrest of Chinese contemporary artist and political activist Ai Weiwei on charges of tax evasion sparked international protest. Despite the universal tensions on political and economic fronts, however, the entertainment industry somehow managed to maintain its golden world of sugar-coated pop and blockbuster films.

The music scene of 2011 was a dynamic one. In the sphere of pop, Lady Gaga continued to impress and intrigue, and Katy Perry, the first woman to have five songs from a single album come out as #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 List, also showed us that she has a bit of a more serious side with “The One That Got Away.” Fresher faces

like Adele wowed us with her soulful sophomore album *21* (and tearjerker song “Someone Like You”); on the opposite end of the talent spectrum, Rebecca Black’s “Friday” went viral on YouTube. Later in the year, the music world was rocked by the death of Amy Winehouse. Her album *Back to Black* almost immediately became best-selling in the UK, and a posthumous compilation album, *Lioness: Hidden Treasures*, was released at the end of the year.

The highest-grossing movies of the year were almost all sequels or parts of series. At the top of the list was *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2*, which raked in \$381 million at the US box office. It was followed by *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*, *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1*, *The Hangover Part 2*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*. If films were not incredibly innovative this year, however, television made up for that. Notable new shows on the scene included *American Horror Story*, *Re-*

venge, *New Girl*, *Game of Thrones*, *Homeland*, and British import *Downton Abbey*.

Excitement in the realm of high fashion kicked off with John Galliano’s fall from grace, as his alleged anti-Semitic rant at a Paris bar caused him to lose his position at Christian Dior. The late Alexander McQueen caught the eyes of the world in a few different ways: Kate Middleton marched down the aisle in a Sarah Burton for Alexander McQueen-designed gown, and the summer exhibition *Savage Beauty*, a retrospective on the designer’s work, brought in hundreds of thousands of visitors to the Metropolitan Museum of Art over the course of three months. Fashion for the average consumer, on the other hand, remained unremarkably static, as flare jeans tried to make a comeback but never really succeeded in getting past the supermodel market.

2011 in arts, comfortably following in the footsteps of an equally comfortable 2010, was business as usual.



The year in film

Arts writers weigh in on the top movies of 2011

PHOTO BY KIMBERLY WRIGHT TM, © 2010 TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORP
Paul Giamatti and Alex Shaffer star in *Win Win*, a story about being a loser.

**By Jaimie Chung
and Jared Katz**

Win Win

With its atypical plot and talented cast, *Win Win* will win you over with a heartfelt story about being a loser. The movie revolves around an ever-so-average father, Mike (Paul Giamatti), who is struggling to make ends meet for his family, and Kyle, a troubled teenager (Alex Shaffer) whose unexpected agility

and strength help rescue Mike's high school wrestling team. If life's got you down, this movie is a perfect remedy. As its tagline says, "in the game of life, you can't lose 'em all."

—JC

Midnight in Paris

This romantic comedy fantasy (say that three times fast) follows successful Hollywood writer and aspiring author Gil Pender (Owen Wilson), and his fiancée Inez (Rachel McAd-

ams) on their trip to Paris (no, they do not reprise their respective roles from *Wedding Crashers*). As Gil drunkenly wanders through the city streets one night, he is beckoned into a vintage street car which magically travels back in time to the 1920s. Disenchanted with his life in the present, Gil is elated to meet his idols of the past, including Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, and F. Scott Fitzgerald. These whimsical trips through time help Gil make progress in writing his first novel and reassess issues in his modern-day personal life. Gil's child-like innocence and naiveté make for a lovable protagonist who you'll root for from start to finish. There's a reason it got nominated for (and won) so many awards. See it.

—JK

Fast Five

In the fifth installment of *The Fast and The Furious* series, we see all the characters from the previous movies unite to pull one last heist. Surprisingly, it isn't horrible. If you're looking for a believable story or complex characters, stay away, but maybe the fact that we don't expect much makes it enjoyable. Outrageous stunts, dirty cops, and sexy cars are destined to be a box office hit, and the plot moves along at a good pace to keep it interesting. Beware, those of you who haven't seen the previous films — much of the plot for *Fast Five* is derived from 2009's *Fast & Furious*. But, if you want to see an entertaining,



PHOTO BY ROGER ARPJOU © 2011 MEDIAPRO, VERSÁTIL CINEMA & GRAVIER PRODUCTIONS, COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Gil (Owen Wilson) dwells on the past, and comes to terms with the present, when he vacations in Paris.

action-packed movie with eye candy for all, you won't be disappointed.

—JC

Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

With a story as invigorating as Stieg Larsson's, there is no way this film could lose. Putting aside the fact that the characters' accents were all over the place, the film does a commendable job of squeezing a 500-page book into a three-hour movie. David Fincher wisely uses what little time he has by focusing on developing the character of Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara). Mara's impeccable performance, along with a strong soundtrack and superb cinematography, bring Salander to life. We see Mikael Blomkvist and Salander team up to find a prolific rapist and murderer, and the despicable villains they meet will leave you horrified. Don't watch this one with your family.

—JC

Hanna

A new take on the badass chick story, *Hanna* is a must-see thriller with a touch of whimsy for a hair-raising and heart-thumping two hours. Hanna (Saoirse Ronan) is a teenage girl who has been trained by her father Erik (Eric Bana) to kill Marissa Weigler (Cate Blanchett), a CIA agent. We soon find out why Hanna's father had to escape to the wilderness from Weigler, and the rest of the film is a creepy and enticing manhunt. Eventually, the story becomes more about a girl outgrowing her father than anything, but the novel way in which this story is told is laudable. Blanchett's disturbingly sinister performance and Ronan's spot-on detached portrayal are the cherry on top.

—JC

50/50

Starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Seth Rogen, the casting for *50/50* should already have girls and guys hooked. Adam Lerner (Gordon-Levitt) is a young journalist who's diagnosed with a rare and life-threatening spinal tumor. Given 50/50 odds of survival, Adam tries various remedies to cope with the crescendoing stress of his very possible demise, ranging from medical marijuana to sessions with an inexperienced therapist (Anna Kendrick). Rogen, who plays Adam's friend and coworker Kyle, provides his signature flavor of comic relief, bringing levity to an otherwise grim story. You may walk away with tears, but they'll be accompanied by a smile.

—JK



PHOTO BY ANDERS LINDEN, © 2011 COLUMBIA TRISTAR MARKETING GROUP, INC.
David Fincher's *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, starring Rooney Mara, is an invigorating adaptation of Stieg Larsson's bestselling novel.



PHOTO BY ALEX BAILEY, © 2010
FOCUS FEATURES LLC.
Hair-raising thriller *Hanna*
is ultimately about a girl outgrowing her father.



PHOTO BY CHRIS HELCERMANAS-BENGE, © 2011 SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT, LLC.
Grim reality meets comic relief in cancer drama *50/50*, starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Seth Rogen.

Tech staff review the cinema of 2011

Some are awesome, others nothing special (but worth a watch)

Crazy, Stupid, Love

Don't let the painstakingly repetitive trailer deter you from watching *Crazy, Stupid, Love*. It's an endearing rom-com that also has a few surprises. It combines the stories of a womanizer (Ryan Gosling) who wants to change his ways for a charming law student (Emma Stone) and a recently single putz (Steve Carell) trying to win back his one and only (Julianne Moore). With plenty of melt-your-heart romance and some hilarious moments, this chick flick is one that you don't have to be ashamed to watch. Cameos by Marisa Tomei and Kevin Bacon are also a plus.

—JC

Warrior

It's a shame the marketing team didn't come up with a better name than *Warrior*, but this movie, sadly overshadowed by *The Fighter*, is a gem. The film is a beautiful character study of alcoholic patriarch Paddy Conlon (Nick Nolte) and his two sons Brendan (Joel Edgerton) and Tommy (Tom Hardy). Torn apart at a young age by the divorce of their parents, Brendan and Tommy lead separate lives until they both find themselves needing the prize money from a mixed martial arts tournament. This may seem like just another fighting movie, but each of the characters is developed so brilliantly that the fighting becomes subsidiary. Edgerton, Hardy, and es-

pecially Nolte give their respective characters such life that you'll be cheering all of them on by the end.

—JC

X-Men: First Class

Forget *Thor* and *Captain America*: The prequel to the *X-Men* trilogy, *X-Men: First Class* is the superhero movie of 2011. It cleverly relates the X-Men's beginnings to the Holocaust and the Cuban missile crisis, and we see how each of the characters chooses their sides for the rest of the series. With just a hint of cheesiness, the movie has enough action sequences, CGI effects, and despicable bad guys to impress loyal fans and first-time viewers alike. Michael Fassbender, James McAvoy, Kevin Bacon, and Rose Byrne successfully lead a well-rounded cast.

—JC

Drive

Drive features Ryan Gosling as the nameless protagonist, a Hollywood stunt driver by day and a heist getaway driver by night. After falling in love with his neighbor Irene, the Driver promises to help Irene's husband pay off his debt to local mobsters, and is consequently drawn into a world of crime. Don't be misled by the trailer; this is not your typical fast-paced action flick, but rather a stylized

action-drama blend with brief yet rewarding bursts of energy. The film may not be for everyone, but I certainly trended with the hugely positive critical consensus (and hey, worst case scenario you'll get 100 minutes of Ryan Gosling eye-candy).

—JK

Source Code

Another masterpiece from Duncan Jones ("Zowie Bowie," son of David Bowie), *Source Code* dodges a sophomore slump with an intriguing sci-fi premise, stellar cast, and, much like Jones' first feature-film *Moon*, jarring plot twists. Army helicopter pilot Colter Stephens (Jake Gyllenhaal) is appointed with the task of resolving a recent terrorist attack on a commuter train headed for Chicago using a simulation known as the source code, a device which allows Stephens to experience the last eight minutes of one of the deceased passengers' lives. Without revealing too much of the plot, I'll tell you that *Source Code* goes beyond the traditional sci-fi film and even evokes philosophical and existential questions. Just avoid getting caught up in the technical details (tenuously explained through "parabolic calculus" and "quantum mechanics") and you'll be in for a thought-provoking treat.

—JK



PHOTO BY CHUCK ZLOTNICK, COURTESY OF LIONS GATE ENTERTAINMENT

Paddy Conlon (Nick Nolte) coaches estranged son Tommy (Tom Hardy) in *Warrior*.

Artsy stuff happens at MIT, too

A year of song, dance, and theater



1. The MIT Chorallaries perform their fall concert on the Friday before Thanksgiving Break. The free superhero-themed concert entertained a packed crowd in 10-250.

2. Kaba Modern, a hip-hop dance crew from Irvine, Calif., performs at the 13th Annual Grains of Rice, a celebration of Asian culture hosted by the MIT Asian American Association on Apr. 16 in Walker.

3. Tim the Beaver joins Men in Heat during their dance performance in MIT SAAS's culture show Satya on Apr. 1.

4. B-girl Colleen M. Gallagher '11 holds a freeze at Imobulare practice on Mar. 7.

5. Allison M. Schneider '13 (Mercutio) and Katherine A. Roe '14 (Tybalt) share an intimate moment in MIT Shakespeare Ensemble's production of *Romeo and Juliet*.



VIVEK DASARI—THE TECH



MINH PHAN—THE TECH



CHRISTIAN J. TERNUS—THE TECH

CAMPUS LIFE IN REVIEW



ELIZABETH D'ARIENZO—THE TECH

The first semester of Maseeh Hall

An insider's look at the first few months of a new dorm

By Katie Bodner

STAFF WRITER

This summer, while filling out the housing lottery, I'll admit that I was apprehensive about moving into the newest dormitory on campus. What would it be like? How would I even know if I would like living there? Questions like these raced through my mind, until I realized that my peers and I could seize this opportunity and have an impact on a new MIT community. We could pioneer original traditions, develop the culture, and leave a mark on the dorm. When Maseeh Hall opened in August 2011, a group of 462 diverse residents moved in, and the dorm took off from there.

To give some context, Maseeh used to be a graduate dorm called Ashdown House, and before that, it was the Riverbank Court Hotel.

In 2008, a group of 50 students formed the Phoenix Group (rising from the “ashes” of Ashdown House), and began making plans for the new community. The group even travelled to Cambridge University to observe its residential life in order to brainstorm new ideas. After three years of the group's planning and coordination with the new housemasters, the Division of Student Life, and the building's architects — and thanks to a generous gift from Fariborz Maseeh ScD '90 — Maseeh Hall was completed and opened in August 2011, ready for residents to fill its “blank slate.”

Described by some as quiet at first, Maseeh Hall slowly developed its culture. It didn't help that Hurricane Irene disrupted a day of REX events (coincidentally, the famous hurricane of '38 also struck when the building first opened as a graduate dorm). However,

Maseeh persevered both then and now. The Executive Committee continued to meet for countless hours to discuss the dorm's constitution, and the House Team worked extremely hard to provide fun programming for the residents. Jack Carroll, one of Maseeh's Housemasters, commented that the hardest part about opening the new dorm was ramping up from 50 undergraduate Ashdown residents to 462 residents and adjusting to a larger staff. Among the challenges were some disconnect between the House Team, the Executive Committee and the residents, but in a building so large and so new, there were bound to be issues, mostly resolved by the first semester's end.

Throughout its first semester, Maseeh did become a central hub on campus. The only dorm with a dining hall open for lunch, Mas-

eeh turned out to be a popular meeting place. However, its required 19-meal dining plan for all freshmen residents stirred some controversy. Bon Appétit has proved to be a great and cooperative vender, but most students do not like the amount of required meals. To experiment with new options, the dorm initiated a Block Meal Plan during this IAP where residents could buy a certain number of meals for the term at a fixed price. If successful, there's a possibility that this plan may be implemented in Fall 2012.

Creativity flowed through Maseeh from the beginning. During orientation, Maseeh launched a land yacht race against East Campus. Residents even brought their passion for building to the next level by forming the Maseeh Create Club, or MC2. The founder of the club, Paele M. Powell '15, said she was inspired to take the initiative because of "the idea that MIT is a place for innovation and creativity, engineering and art. Being a new dorm, Maseeh is a canvas that can become any sort of picture that the students can imagine. I want to support other students in the process of leading, planning and carrying out various projects so that Maseeh can become a place known for fostering such a spirit."

Currently, the club has tools for use by anyone in the Maseeh community and soon hopes to create a repository of craft and elec-

tronics supplies for tinkering. The club also built a cardboard boat for the Head of the Zesiger Regatta, and other members are developing plans for a "Faster-Than-Wind-Mobile."

In addition to dining and clubs, Maseeh also boasts a developing social community. The dorm held a Halloween Party in its basement, a pumpkin-carving event in its courtyard and a block party in September for the entire community to welcome the dorm. There was even a Super Bowl Party in the dorm's game room and media room, which has a 3-D projector.

Many students moved into Maseeh because they were drawn to the dorm's aesthetics. Yes, it does resemble a castle, and it does have a clock tower overlooking the river, but isn't that the wrong reason to choose a dorm? I've noticed over its first semester, though, that Maseeh has lived up to its expectations of a welcoming dorm. There's room for all sorts of students in the community. There is not one word to describe every "Maseehdonian," but in general, the residents strive to "promote the welfare of the community, establish an inclusive living environment and ensure equity for all inhabitants," according to the dorm's newly ratified constitution which can be found on its website, <http://maseeh.mit.edu>.

"My sense is that the feel is very positive, optimistic and enthusiastic. We have terrific

freshmen that are excited about being a part of something new," said Carroll of Maseeh's atmosphere at the end of the first semester,

Residents have wondered how the dorm can improve in its second semester and get the respect of the community. Newly-elected President Regina Cho '14 explained the difficulties that the dorm will face: "Maseeh's greatest challenge in the coming year is building a dorm-wide sense of community and pride in being 'Maseehdonians.' We want people to love living in Maseeh not only for the facilities and location but also for the awesome, caring students and GRTs who look out for each other. A lot of things are in the works, so this next year should be an exciting one!"

Carroll agreed and added, "Maseeh must make its presence known on campus and develop more of a sense of identity."

It will definitely take more time for Maseeh to find its place at MIT. What will it unleash for CPW? How will the adjustment lottery work for next year? These questions are uncertain, but I can say for sure that the dorm has high hopes for 2012. It has a bustling community of motivated students and a supportive house team filled with extremely active GRTs ready to leave a great impact on the MIT community. "We want people to want to live here," summarized Cockey about Maseeh's goals for the future.

Crossword Puzzle

By Sam Trabucco. Solution in the newspaper.

Across

1. In vogue
5. Toothed item
9. Pinch pennies
14. "Livin' la Vida ____"
15. Gulf state royalty
16. Takes a bit off
17. Sightseer
18. "Slumdog Millionaire" fashion
19. Stop in Paris
20. 2011 home opener?
23. Prof.'s helper
24. Type of market
25. For fear that
27. Anguish
30. A major news item of 2011
34. Foreign
35. Snowboarder White
36. Kitchenware brand
37. In no danger
38. Behaves like a gyroscope
39. One-named singer for the Velvet Underground
40. Up to, in ads

Down

41. Wrist or knee
42. Drug smugglers
43. 2011 celebration, or change at La Verde's
45. Egg producer
46. Quatrain rhyme scheme
47. "Woe is me!"
48. Attempt
51. 2011 speaker
56. Smoker's request
58. Hang over
59. Congo river
60. Off-by-one, for instance
61. Folktale
62. Partner to Stitch
63. Considers
64. Incurred a ticket
65. Scientist _____ Hubbard
1. 1950s Dodgers pitcher Labine
2. Boxer Oscar De la _____
3. Tries to stagnate bruising
4. Like students during IAP

5. Tropical nut
6. Largest city in Nebraska
7. Actress Sorvino
8. Genius
9. Masseuse employer
10. Dojo activity
11. Angers
12. 1969 "Miracle" team
13. MIT duty
21. North Carolina University
22. Toyota make
26. ID on an I.R.S. form
27. Simply must
28. French chef Ducasse
29. Civil War arms
30. Reflective
31. "Here you go!"
32. Spreadsheet program
33. Hanger?
35. Slippery pitches
38. Places to lounge
39. Nincompoop
41. "I like the cut of your ____"
42. Taylor Swift single
44. Grasp
45. Sent an email from shockfield@mit.edu
47. Romeo's love?

48. Rosebud
49. Place on the payroll
50. Shrek
52. For or while
53. Recipient
54. ____-steric regulation
55. It's noble
57. ____-80 (old computer)

